REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The Examiner objected to Figs. 7 and 8. Enclosed are two red-marked drawing sheets showing proposed amendments to Figs. 7 and 8. Approval is requested.

Claims 1-4 and 16-19 have been rejected as being unpatentable over the combination of Marusawa et al. and Krishnamurthy et al. In response, claim 1 is being amended to specify that the "electrical component" in the nonreciprocal circuit device (referred to as a "network" in the original claims) is formed on an upper surface of a dielectric substrate in said laminated body. Claims 2, 3 and 16 are being amended to refer to additional details of the dielectric substrate and/or the electrical component. Further, new claim 20 depends from claim 1 and recites that the laminated body includes a common electrode disposed on the laminated body and electrically connected in common to the plurality of central conductors and to ground. See page 11, lines 14-16.

The new features in amended claim 1 and new claim 20 are neither disclosed or suggested by the references.

The Marusawa reference discloses a non-reciprocal circuit element including a green sheet. The center electrodes, capacitors and the like are formed by being printed on the green sheet. In this arrangement it is difficult to adjust the components such as capacitors, since they are disposed on a green sheet. Further, after the green sheet is laminated and fired, it is impossible to adjust the center electrodes and capacitors. However, by forming the components on the upper surface of a "substrate," rather than on a green sheet, the electrical components can be adjusted very easily. Therefore, it is considered that the reference does not disclose the features now recited in the pending claims.

The Krishnamurthy et al. reference was cited for its disclosure of an integrated yoke comprising magnetic thin films and is not relevant to the invention in this connection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the invention of claims 1-4 and 16-20 is patentable over the prior art of record and allowance is requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 13, 2002:

James A. Finder
Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative

Signature

May 13, 2002
Date of Signature

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Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX B

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(iii) AND (c)(ii)

CLAIMS:

AMENDED 1. A nonreciprocal circuit device comprising:

a laminated body comprising a magnetic substrate made of a ferromagnetic material, a permanent-magnet substrate laminated on the magnetic substrate, and a plurality of central conductors disposed on [one of an upper surface and a lower surface of] the magnetic substrate, the plurality of central conductors intersecting each other in a central area of the laminated body while being electrically insulated from each other;

a yoke integrated into the laminated body; and

an electrical component [a network] provided within the laminated body and electrically connected to any one of the plurality of central conductors;

wherein said component is formed on an upper surface of a dielectric substrate in said laminated body.

AMENDED 2. A nonreciprocal circuit device according to Claim 1, [further comprising a] wherein said dielectric substrate is laminated on a side of the magnetic substrate opposite to the side on which the permanent-magnet substrate is laminated[, wherein the network is disposed on at least one surface of at least one of the magnetic substrate, the permanent-magnet substrate, and the dielectric substrate, and is electrically connected to any one of the central conductors].

AMENDED 3. A nonreciprocal circuit device according to Claim 2, wherein the [network] component includes a capacitor electrode electrically connected to one end of any one of the central conductors and a ground electrode formed on the lower surface of the laminated body, and the capacitor electrode and the ground electrode constitute a capacitor.

AMENDED 16. A nonreciprocal circuit device according to claim 1, wherein the [network] component includes a capacitor electrode electrically connected to one end of any one of the

central conductors and a ground electrode formed on the lower surface of the laminated body, and the capacitor electrode and the ground electrode constitute a capacitor.